

MICK Holifield, whose scoring opportunities have been restricted by the burden of captaincy, recaptured his goal touch on Saturday when netting twice to guide Wycombe Wanderers to a deserved victory over Leatherhead at Loakes Park.

Holifield struck twice in the second half just when it looked as though Leatherhead's defensive tactics were going to pay dividends.

The first came in the 55th minute from a set piece move, following a corner. Long's corner was tapped short to Paul Birdseye on the right.

His curling cross left goalkeeper John Swannell stranded and Holifield, although under pressure, stuck out his head to divert the ball skilfully over the goaline.

This goal will have much pleased manager Andy Williams who has been critical of Wycombe's set-piece play in recent weeks.

Holifield put the result beyond doubt in the 70th minute with a vicious left foot shot from 20 yards, which soared into the top left corner of the goal. Dylan Evans deserves great credit for weighting the ball into Holifield's path.

There was never any danger of Leatherhead climbing back into the game as Blues completely dominated the closing stages. Indeed Holifield went close to completing a hat-trick near the end when his angled shot was turned for a corner.

So Wycombe picked up three points which not only put them into third spot in

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wanderers 2, Leatherhead 0

the Berger Isthmian League Premier Division, but also erased the memory of that defeat at Staines the previous Tuesday.

Blues made one change from the side that started the Staines game. John Maskell was welcomed back into goal, thus allowing Bobby Davies resume his left back role. Gary Fowles dropped out.

From the start, it was clear that Leatherhead had only come for a draw. They often pulled nine men back in defence while leaving Chris Kelly and John Baker alone up front.

Baker worked hard to create openings but Kelly seemed to reserve his

energies for shouting at officials with his infamous 'lip'. The Tanne's were completely devoid of ideas as Wycombe pressed forward remorselessly in the first half.

Dave Allanson and Derek Harris went close with chances but the best of the lot fell to Steve Long, who had only Swannell to beat after intercepting a back pass. However he dithered a little too long and the defence was able to get back and clear the danger.

One reason for Leatherhead's lack of ambition in the first half was an injury to Micky Cook, whose head struck an advertising board next to the pitch.

The 'thud' could be heard all around the ground and Cook had to receive treatment for 10 minutes before returning to the fray, suitably bandaged. However he did not reappear after the interval.

Wycombe dominated without scoring and when John Doyle fired just over the bar when clear, it appeared that Leatherhead might snatch a victory against the run of play.

However Wanderers' superiority was such that the goals just had to come and it was only fitting that Holifield, who has worked tirelessly since taking over as skipper, should gain the reward.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Harkwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, J. Priestley, M. Holifield, D. Evans, S. Long, D. Harris (sub: L. Reid 73 mins).

Leatherhead: J. Swannell, C. Kelly, G. Fowles, B. Davies, D. Reid, D. Malley, M. Cook (sub: G. Whitehead 45 mins), W. Salkefield, C. Kelly, J. Baker, J. Doyle.

Referee: F. C. Sibley (Reading).

Half-time: F. C. Sibley (Reading).

Non-league O.G.: **Wycombe:** M. Holifield (65 mins, 70').

BERGER ISTMHIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon	9	7	0	2	21	9	21
Enfield	11	6	1	4	18	8	19
Walthamstow	10	6	1	3	18	11	19
Dulwich	9	5	3	2	16	9	17
Leatherhead	10	5	2	3	16	12	17
Barking	9	5	2	2	22	14	17
Woking	10	4	5	1	17	11	17
Brentford Wd	10	4	2	4	17	11	14
Slough	10	5	2	3	9	8	17
Hitchin	10	5	1	4	18	16	16
Brentwood	10	5	1	4	17	16	16
Hendon	11	4	4	3	14	17	16
Hayes	10	3	5	2	11	13	14
Welling	11	3	5	3	11	13	14
Oxford	8	2	2	4	11	19	8
Staines	10	2	2	6	10	20	8
Carshalton	9	1	3	5	8	12	5
Leytonstone	9	1	3	5	8	12	5
Sutton	10	0	5	5	9	18	5
Tilbury	9	1	1	7	8	25	4

Blues aim for double

WYCOMBE will be aiming to complete their first double of the season when they travel to Brougham Road tonight (Tuesday), for a return match against the much improved Boreham Wood.

In the first match between the two sides in mid-August Blues scraped home 1-0 thanks to a second half goal from Steve Long.

This is potentially a tough game for the Blues as Boreham Wood are currently in the middle of an eight game unbeaten run.

Indeed the closest shave they have had in recent weeks was the narrow 3-2 victory they gained over Burnham in the FA Cup after they had twice trailed.

In the next match Wood gained a highly creditable 2-1 victory against the high ranking Walthamstow Avenue, while on Saturday they thrashed bottom club Tilbury 5-0.

Jeff Batten scored a hat-trick in that game but the leading scorer is Nick O'Donaghue, a signing from Herford Town, whose goal tally is eight.

They will be without left back Kevin Howell, who has a broken arm. Dave Lawrence, who led Bishops Stortford to the FA Amateur Cup, goes back from midfield to fill the vacancy.

Boreham Wood are now standing ninth in the Premier Division - their highest ever Isthmian League placing and Wycombe will have to play well to prevent them going even higher.

Blues will be without the services of Terry Scott, who aggravated an old knee injury last week and expects to be out for a fortnight.

BOREHAM WOOD (Probable team): S. Waller, D. Tyler, D. Lawrence, J. Sneddon, P. Carretta, M. Bevena, K. Mulcahy, J. Morris, S. Ragan, N. O'Donaghue, M. Skingle.



Leatherhead centre-half Dave Reid, under pressure from Steve Long, clears desperately for a corner from the grasp of his goalkeeper John Swannell.